

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-19, 21-28, and 30-35 are pending. Claims 1, 11, 13-15, 18, 26, and 34 have been amended. Claims 4, 20, and 29 have been cancelled. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 11, 13-16, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for containing various informalities. Applicants have amended the claims to correct these informalities in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

Claims 1, 2, 6-10, 13, 18, 22, 23, 26, 28, and 30-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Blosser (U.S. Patent No. 6,682,996); and claims 3, 5, 11, 12, 17, 19, 21, 24, 25, 27, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Blosser in view of Ohuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,576,562) and Nallan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,440,870) and Chen et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0129361)

Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are moot in view of the amendments to each independent claim (1, 18, and 26) to include the subject matter of claims 4, 20, and 29, respectively.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 20, and 29 contained allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their respective base claims. Applicants have cancelled claims 4, 20, and 29 and incorporated the subject matter of these claims into their respective independent claims (claims 1, 18, and 26). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims (claims 1-3, 5-19, 21-28, and 30-35) are in condition for allowance.

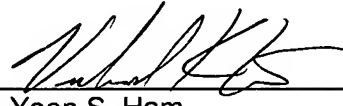
Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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